

So it is now my great honor to welcome the 2005 winners of the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The Acting Administrator will do the duties.

[At this point, Acting Administrator Stephen L. Johnson introduced the award recipients from each region, and the President congratulated them.]

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. We're proud to have you here in the White House. I want to welcome and congratulate our students again. I really

want to welcome your parents too. You've done a good job. And I want to thank your teachers. Teaching is a noble profession. We hope you enjoy the White House as much as Laura and I do.

God bless you all. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deborah Johnson, wife of Acting Administrator Johnson, and their son, Matthew Johnson.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of John D. Negroponte as Director of National Intelligence *April 21, 2005*

I commend the Senate for moving quickly to confirm John Negroponte as the first Director of National Intelligence. I congratulate John on his confirmation, and I look forward to working closely with him. As the DNI, Ambassador Negroponte will lead a unified intelligence community as it reforms and adapts to the new challenges

of the 21st century. The United States continues to make progress in the global war on terror against the enemies of freedom who target innocent civilians and seek weapons of mass destruction. I appreciate John's willingness to once again serve his country and the many men and women who serve in the intelligence community.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Energy Legislation *April 21, 2005*

I commend the House for taking an important step to secure our energy future and to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The House energy legislation is largely consistent with the key objectives of my comprehensive national energy policy: increasing conservation and efficiency, expanding domestic production in environmentally responsible ways, diversifying our energy supply with more renew-

ables and clean fuels, and modernizing our energy infrastructure. For more than a decade, our Nation has not had a sensible, balanced, and comprehensive energy strategy. An energy bill will help us make better use of the energy supplies we have and will make our supply of energy more affordable and more secure for the future. I look forward to swift Senate action so that I can sign a bill into law by August.